



AUGUST 31, 1954



1026 17th STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

## CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDUP

THE second session of the 83rd Congress finally came to grips with the more controversial parts of the legislative program and closed the long-drawn-out deliberations August 20. House members, up for election and impatient with Senate delaying tactics, led the rush from Washington. Barely a quorum remained to act on late reports of conference committees.

When the final score was in, the Administration had won reasonable facsimiles of most of its domestic legislative proposals. But in the foreign field it had not fared so well. Recommendations of the Randall Commission on Foreign Economic Policy were all but ignored. Foreign aid was cut \$777,057,738 below the President's estimates of what was needed. Congress had shown itself increasingly suspicious and critical of the United Nations and had cut contributions to U. N. programs.

### INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

**Trade:** Extended Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act for one year, to June 12, 1955.

**Fisheries Research:** Authorized Tariff Commission to use up to 30 per cent of customs receipts from fisheries imports for research in the best possible ways to aid American fisheries.

**Un-American Trout:** Required restaurants serving imported trout to display sign stating country of origin.

**Customs Simplification:** Authorized Tariff Commission to review customs tariff schedules and report back to Congress.

**Foreign Aid:** Mutual Security Act of 1954.

	Budget Request	Authorization	Appropriation
Military Assistance.....	\$ 3,014 billion	\$ 2.79 billion	\$ 2.4 billion
Development Assistance.....	224 million	200 million	184.5 million
Technical Cooperation.....	131.5 million	136.5 million	116.4 million
U. N. Technical Assistance.....	17.9 million	17.9 million	9.9 million
U. N. Children's Fund.....	13.5 million	13.5 million	12.5 million

**General U. N. Appropriation:** The full amount of the U. S. share of the U. N. general fund, \$15 million, one-third of the U. N. budget, was granted.

**Agricultural Trade Development Act:** Authorized the disposal of \$1 billion of agricultural surpluses, \$700

million to be sold for foreign currencies, \$300 million for emergency gifts.

**Point IV Study:** Senate authorized a seven-month study of technical assistance programs.

**St. Lawrence Seaway Construction Project:** Passed.

**Treaties:** The Senate ratified the Korean Pact, the International Copyright Convention, the International Fisheries Convention; Conventions with the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and with West Germany on avoidance of double taxation on income; a Convention regulating sale of opium.

**Atomic Energy Act of 1954:** Enacted new procedure for implementing international agreements in this field, requiring that bilateral arrangements for the exchange of information on atomic developments be submitted to Joint Committee on Atomic Energy for a 30-day period while Congress is in session, for Committee review.

### Other Action

Congress passed resolutions which: expressed opposition to the seating of Communist China in the U. N.; opposed "Locarno-type" pacts; supported the Organization of American States in taking action to prevent interference by International Communism in the Western Hemisphere, and favored the restoration of sovereignty to Germany if the European Defense Community did not materialize.

### DOMESTIC LEGISLATION

**Tax Revision:** Made first major overhaul of tax legislation in 75 years, providing \$1.3 billion savings to corporations and individuals through provisions for "hardship" cases and numerous technical changes. Extended 52 per cent corporate income tax rate until April 1, 1955. Individuals are permitted to exclude from taxable income up to \$50 of dividend income and four per cent of dividend income over \$50, after 1954. *Excise tax cut* passed March 30, 1954.

**Appropriations:** Regular appropriation bills cleared House and Senate before the end of June. A total

of \$47 billion was appropriated during the session, representing a cut of about \$2.5 billion from estimates submitted by the Administration. Largest cut was made in the Defense Budget, \$1 billion. Congress increased the Agriculture fund request by \$24 million and the sum for Health, Education and Welfare by \$11 million. Included in the total was the foreign aid appropriation, which was among the last bills considered before adjournment.

**Housing Act of 1954:** Adjusted provisions for loans and mortgages for federal housing programs, authorized construction of 35,000 low-rent public housing units before June 1955 in communities where homes are needed in connection with slum clearance projects.

**Farm Program:** Major legislation included provision for flexible supports, 82.5 to 90 per cent of parity on basic crops, 75 to 90 per cent on dairy products; authorized Secretary of Agriculture to pay wool price supports to producers for four years from customs duties on imported wool.

**Debt Ceiling:** Raised borrowing power of federal government \$6 billion, from \$275 to \$281 billion for fiscal year of 1955.

**Social Security:** Extended coverage to 10 million persons, including farm operators, some professional and farm workers. Permitted coverage on a voluntary basis to clergymen and state and local government workers. Increased benefits, raised taxes to cover the increases.

**Subversive Control:** The bill stripping the Communist Party of all legal rights and denying Government bargaining services to unions and business groups which are "Communist infiltrated," which was passed enthusiastically by Congress during the closing days of the session, did not have Administration backing. Key measures enacted in the Administration's anti-Communist program included: Authorization of Federal judges to grant immunity from prosecution to witnesses before Congressional investigating committees; increases in penalties for harboring or concealing persons from arrest; making it a crime to jump bail; tightening espionage and sabotage laws and permitting the death penalty for peacetime spying; stripping U. S. citizenship from convicted Communists, and denying pensions to any Federal worker convicted of a felony.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**H. R. 8860:** Extension of the Trade Agreements Act for three years, incorporating some proposals of the Commission on Foreign Economic Policy. No action.

**H. R. 9666:** Reclassification of hardboard in tariff schedule, which would have resulted in 100 per cent tariff increase. Passed House July 30, 1954. Senate Finance Committee directed Tariff Commission to study the industry and report to the Committee in January 1955.

**H. R. 6584:** Setting up new standards for the valuation of imports. Passed House July 26, 1953. No action in Senate.

**H. R. 8355:** Authorizing the President to suspend some provisions of the Buy American Act. No action.

**H. R. 3575:** Hawaii and Alaska Statehood. House passed Hawaii statehood bill March 10, 1953. Senate attached Alaska statehood provision to Hawaii bill. No action on revised bill by House.

**S. 2413:** Home Rule for the District of Columbia.

Reported by Senate Committee. No action in either house.

**Congressional Procedure:** Senate and House committees held hearings on proposed codes of procedure for Congressional investigating committees. No action in either house.

**Executive Agreements:** S. 3067: Required that international agreements other than treaties entered into by U. S. be transmitted to Senate Foreign Relations Committee within 30 days after being executed. Reported by Senate Committee. No action.

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